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### **Amendments to the Claims**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

Listing of claims:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (New) A short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule having a sense strand and an antisense strand, wherein:

(a) the sense strand comprises 10 or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro modified nucleotides, and a terminal cap molecule at both 3' and 5'-ends of the sense strand; and

(b) the antisense strand comprises 10 or more 2'-O-methyl and 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides.

53. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense and antisense strands are 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides.

54. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

55. (New) The siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

56. (New) A composition comprising the siRNA molecule of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.